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EXPRESS MAIL LABEL NO.: EV 518890765 US

PATENT

Attorney Docket No. 29914.701.406

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application)	<u>PATENT APPLICATION</u>
)	
Inventor(s): Mark A. Reiley)	
)	Art Unit: 3738
Application No.: 10/657,837)	
)	Examiner: David J. Isabella
Filed: September 9, 2003)	
)	Confirmation No.: 1759
Title: Facet arthroplasty devices and methods)	
)	

Commissioner of Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. §1.97

Sir:

Applicants hereby submit an Information Disclosure Statement along with attached form(s) PTO/SB/08. A copy of each listed publication is being submitted herewith, along with a concise explanation of information in a foreign language, if any, pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §1.97-1.98.

Applicants respectfully request that the listed information be considered by the Examiner and be made of record in the above-identified application. Applicants further request that the Examiner initial and return the attached form(s) PTO/SB/08 in accordance with MPEP §609.

Applicants reserves the right to establish the patentability of the claimed invention over any of the information provided herewith, and/or to prove that this information may not be prior art, and/or to prove that this information may not be enabling for the teachings purportedly offered.

This statement is not intended to represent that a search has been made or that the information cited in the statement is, or is considered to be, prior art or material to patentability as defined in §1.56.



This statement qualifies under 37 C.F.R. §1.97, subsection (b) because:

- (1) It is being filed within 3 months of the application filing date and is other than a continued prosecution application under § 1.53(d)
-- OR --
- (2) It is being filed within 3 months of entry of a national stage
-- OR --
- (3) It is being filed before the mail date of the first Office Action on the merits
-- OR --
- (4) It is being filed before the mailing of a first Office Action after the filing of a request for continued examination under § 1.114.

37 C.F.R. §1.97(c). If this statement is being filed after the latest of: (1) three months beyond the filing date of a national application; (2) three months beyond the date of entry of the national stage as set forth in §1.491 in an international application; or (3) the mailing date of a first Office action on the merits, but before the mailing date of the earlier of a final office action under §1.113 or a notice of allowance under §1.311, then:

- a certification as specified in §1.97(e) is provided below; or
- a fee of \$180.00 as set forth in §1.17(p) is authorized below, enclosed, or included with the payment of other papers filed together with this statement.

37 C.F.R. §1.97(d). If this statement is being filed after the mailing date of the earlier of a final office action under §1.113 or a notice of allowance under §1.311, but before payment of the issue fee, then:

- A. a certification as specified in §1.97(e) is completed below; and
- B. a fee of \$180.00 as set forth in §1.17(p) is authorized below, enclosed, or included with the payment of other papers filed together with this statement.

Copies of each of the references listed on the attached Form PTO/SB/08 are enclosed herewith.

Copies of references listed on the attached Form PTO/SB/08 are enclosed herewith EXCEPT THAT:

- In view of the voluminous nature of references, and the likelihood that these references are available to the Examiner in the file history of the parent application (Serial No.), copies are not enclosed herewith.
- If any of the foregoing publications are not available to the Examiner, Applicant will endeavor to supply copies at the Examiner's request.

Copies of only foreign patent documents and non-patent literature are enclosed in accordance with 37 CFR 1.98 (a)(2). (The U.S. patents and each U.S. patent application publication listed on the attached Form PTO-1449 are not enclosed because this U.S. patent application was filed after June 30, 2003 or this international



application has entered the national stage under 35 USC §371 after June 30, 2003 (see USPTO waiver of requirement under 37 CFR 1.98 (a)(2)(i)).

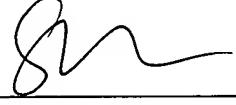
- There are no listed references which are not in the English language.
- The relevance of those listed references which are not in the English language is as follows:
- Attached are copies of search report(s) from corresponding patent application(s), submitted in accordance with MPEP 609 D in support of the attached certification under 37 CFR 1.97(e)(1).
- Attached are the following non-published pending patent applications which may be deemed relevant.
- Fee Authorization.* The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge the above-referenced fees of \$0.00 and charge any additional fees or credit any overpayment associated with this communication to Deposit Account No. 23-2415 (Docket No.29914.701.406).

Respectfully submitted,

WILSON SONSINI GOODRICH & ROSATI

Dated: 3/8/05

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By: 

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Under the paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, no persons required to respond to a collection of information unless it contains a valid OMB control number.

Substitute for form 1449/PTO INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT BY APPLICANT <i>(Use as many sheets as necessary)</i>				Complete if Known			
				Application Number		10/657,837	
				Filing Date		09/09/2003	
				First Named Inventor		Reiley	
				Art Unit		3738	
				Examiner Name		Isabella	
Sheet	1	of	1	Attorney Docket Number			
29914.701.406							

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

Examiner Initials*	Cite No. ¹	Foreign Patent Document <small>Country Code² – Number³ – Kind Code⁴ (if known)</small>	Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY	Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear	T ⁵
		IE S970323	06/03/1998	Eskina Developments Limited		
		WO 95/05783 A1	03/02/1995	Martin, Jean-Raymond		X
		WO 98/56301 A1	12/17/1998	Reiley, Mark A. et al.		
		WO 99/05995 A1	02/11/1999	Gordon, Dennis P.		
		WO 99/60957 A1	12/02/1999	Nuvasive, Inc.		
		WO 99/65412 A1	12/23/1999	Pioneer Laboratories, Inc.		
		WO 00/62684 A1	10/26/2000	Nuvasive, Inc.		
		WO 01/97721 A2	12/27/2001	Kyphon Inc.		
		WO 02/089712 A1	11/14/2002	Gerber, David et al.		
		WO 03/020143 A1	03/13/2003	Synthes		

Examiner Signature		Date Considered
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*EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant. ¹Applicant's unique citation designation number (optional). ²See Kinds Codes of USPTO Patent Documents at www.uspto.gov or MPEP 901.04. ³Enter Office that issued the document, by the two-letter code (WIPO Standard ST.3). ⁴For Japanese patent documents, the indication of the year of the reign of the Emperor must precede the serial number of the patent document. ⁵Kind of document by the appropriate symbols as indicated on the document under WIPO Standard ST.16 if possible. ⁶Applicant is to place a check mark here if English language Translation is attached. This collection of information is required by 37 CFR 1.97 and 1.98. The information is required to obtain or retain a benefit by the public which is to file (and by the USPTO to process) an application. Confidentiality is governed by 35 U.S.C. 122 and 37 CFR 1.14. This collection is estimated to take 2 hours to complete, including gathering, preparing, and submitting the completed application form to the USPTO. Time will vary depending upon the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you require to complete this form and/or suggestions for reducing this burden, should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. SEND TO: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.

If you need assistance in completing the form, call 1-800-PTO-9199 (1-800-786-9199) and select option 2.